

**Building Common Ground toward an Effective West Coast Regional System of MPAs:
West Coast Regional MPA Government Partners Meeting
June 20 and 21, 2006
Monterey, CA**

MEETING SUMMARY

The NOAA National Marine Protected Areas (MPA) Center and its federal partners including National Marine Sanctuary Program, NOAA Fisheries, and the National Centers for Ocean and Coastal Science, convened a two-day kickoff workshop for the West Coast Pilot: a regionally focused, place-based ecosystem management initiative sponsored by the National MPA Center.

The west coast -- California, Oregon, and Washington -- is at the forefront of federal, state, and tribal MPA activity with a growing regional interest in ecosystem-based approaches to place-based marine management. For these reasons, the MPA Center is facilitating a collaborative and multi-disciplinary initiative to pilot some of the key ecosystem-based methods and approaches necessary for designing and managing an effective regional system of MPAs that meets multiple conservation objectives.

Working closely with MPA programs, tribes, and stakeholder groups in the region, this effort will involve developing, testing, and applying analytical tools, scientific information and traditional ecological knowledge to more effectively use MPAs as a tool to maintain healthy, sustainable marine ecosystems. The products of this multi-year endeavor, and the lessons it offers, will provide a foundation for sound regional MPA planning, as well as support for many other ecosystem-based management efforts that require the same comprehensive information about natural and cultural resources and the human uses and natural processes that affect them.

The workshop participants included 37 MPA government partners from around the region. They began to shape a vision for a collaborative regional initiative to enhance place-based management along the west coast and crafted some preliminary strategies for implementing that vision.

Meeting Objectives

- Create a shared understanding of the location, purpose and potential effects of *current* and *planned* place-based management in the region, and initiate discussions about the role of MPAs in meeting shared regional and ecosystem based conservation needs.
 - review marine protected area efforts, both existing and planned, along the west coast
 - provide an opportunity for managers to discuss issues of mutual concern, management challenges, and successes,
- Craft a collaborative regional roadmap needed to enhance regional MPA planning and adaptive management in an ecosystem context.

- identify creative new solutions to management challenges, including multi-agency partnership opportunities for developing a suite of tools, methods, and information; and
- develop a set of recommendations for follow up

Context Setting

The workshop started with two presentations that summarized ongoing ecosystem based management efforts the current state of marine managed areas on the west coast and provided an overview of current and emerging initiatives on ecosystem approaches to management. See http://mpa.gov/national_system/west-coast-pilot.html for the following presentations:

- **Trends in Regional Marine Conservation**, Mr. Joseph Uravitch, A.I.C.P., Director, National Marine Protected Areas Center
- **Place-Based Ocean Management on the West Coast: The Current State of MMAs**, Dr. Charles Wahle, Director, MPA Center Science Institute

Tour de West Coast Panel Sessions

Continuing the morning of the first day, three panel sessions provided different perspectives on current and planned place-based marine management efforts along the U.S. west coast at the federal and regional level, the tribal level and the state level. See http://mpa.gov/national_system/west-coast-pilot.html for the following presentations:

- *Federal and Regional Panel (panel participants included Steve Copps, Gary Davis, Steve Moore, Jonathan Kelsey*, Bill Douros*, Nina Garfield and Joseph Uravitch) * presentations were made, but PowerPoint slides were not used*
 - **National Park Service Marine Protected Areas**, Gary Davis, National Park Service
 - **Pacific Coast Groundfish EFH**, Steve Copps, NOAA Fisheries
 - **National Estuarine Research Reserve System: Program Overview and Priorities**, Nina Garfield, NOAA Estuarine Reserve Division
 - **North Pacific Coast National Wildlife Refuges**, Steve Moore, US Fish and Wildlife
 - **North American Marine Protected Area Network (NAMPAN)**, Joseph Uravitch, National Marine Protected Area Center
- *Tribal Panel (panel participants included Fran Wilshusen, Jim Woods, Jay Burns and Jennifer Hagen)*
 - **The Northwest Indian Fisheries Commission: Serving the Treaty Indian Tribes in Western Washington**, Fran Wilshusen, Northwest Indian Fisheries Commission
- *State Panel (panel participants included Dave Palazzi, Jessica Hamilton and John Ugoretz)*
 - **State of Washington**, Dave Palazzi, Washington Department of Natural Resources
 - **Oregon's Marine Protected Areas Initiatives**, Jessica Hamilton, Oregon Governor Ted Kulongoski's Office

- **California's Marine Protected Areas**, John Ugoretz, California Department of Fish and Game

West Coast Pilot Overview

After the panel sessions describing the current and existing efforts, an introduction to the National MPA Center's West Coast Pilot Initiative was presented. See http://mpa.gov/national_system/west-coast-pilot.html for the following presentation:

- **West Coast Pilot Overview**, Sarah Fischer, National MPA Center

Vision Session Summary

As a large group on the afternoon of the first day, the meeting participants developed ideas in response to the question, "If we were working together as a region, where should we be five years from now?" This was not a consensus seeking exercise, but rather a brainstorming session intended to stimulate discussion about region-wide collaboration. Responses were ultimately binned into three broad categories as follows:

- **Regional Messages**
 - Regional score card / regional vital signs that convey simple messages about the status of coastal ecosystems
 - Communicating that whole (i.e. ecosystem based management) is greater than the sum of the parts
- **Characterizations (Natural resource, cultural resource and human use)**
 - Standardized protocols and methods are developed and issues of scale are considered
 - Identification of regional threats to resources
 - Connectivity among key habitats and populations
- **Coordinated Management**
 - Common outcomes and shared (meta) goals for common issues
 - Simplified management and streamlined bureaucracy

Strategy Session Summary

On Day 2, the participants divided into three groups focused on the above categories, Regional Messages, Characterizations and Coordinated Management, to begin to form strategies to help the region move toward the objectives laid out in the previous day's visioning session. Strategies marked with an "*" arose independently in more than one group.

- *Regional Messages*
 - Region-wide monitoring program should be implemented to track and evaluate ecosystem and MPA status *
 - Common regional messages should be developed in simple, intuitive formats
- *Characterizations*

- Benthic habitats should be comprehensively mapped and characterized *
- Region wide threat assessment should be conducted
- Create a west coast coalition. If the region asks for a product together, their collective voice will be stronger.
- Issues of scale should be addressed *
- *Coordinated Management*
 - Advisory committee/steering group for west coast pilot should be formed *
 - Authorities across the region should be identified *
 - Develop mechanism for regional coordination *
 - A communication process should be developed and used for government to government communications and other types of communications as well

Next Steps

The regional workshop generated many progressive ideas for moving the west coast region closer to a more cohesive approach for using MPAs, and other forms of spatial management, to conserve marine and coastal ecosystems. To this end, the National MPA Center will pursue, with its partners, the following next steps as part of the West Coast Pilot (WCP):

Advisory body

The WCP team will create an informal advisory body of key governmental agency partners to help guide the initiative. The advisory body should have representatives from throughout the region and from different types of governments including state, tribal and federal. Its roles will include advising on broad directions for the initiative and its components, and serving as a conduit to members' agencies and/or sectors. *Target: early 2007.*

Proof of concept paper

The WCP will develop one or more 'proof of concept papers' that will focus on a subset of issues and areas to illustrate the potential value of comprehensive approaches to ecosystem management and MPAs. The proof of concept paper will succinctly demonstrate the utility and value added of the overall approach of the west coast pilot initiative using existing data and focusing on a subset of regional resources. *Target: March 2007*

Action plan

The straw man action plan will spell out in more detail the specific steps to be taken to implement the proposed vision of the workshop participants. Building on existing efforts within the west coast region, the WCP action plan will clearly articulate expected outcomes, products and roles for other regional partners. *Target: March 2007*

Follow-Up Meeting (2007)

Following the development of the straw man action plan, the government partners will review and provide input for a draft regional action plan. A

meeting during winter 2007 will be held to finalize the regional action plan and discuss its implementation. *Target: Winter 2007*

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Appendix 2. Workshop Agenda

Day 1: Tuesday, June 20, 2006

Time	Action	Who
8:30 to 9:00	Continental Breakfast and Check In	
9:00 to 9:10	Welcome	Kennedy
9:10 to 9:25	Meeting Overview and Introductions	Fischer
9:25 to 9:50	Trends in Regional Marine Conservation	Uravitch
9:50 to 10:15	What We've Learned up 'Til Now	Wahle
10:15 to 10:30	Break	
10:30 to 12:00	<p>Tour de West Coast: Existing and Planned MPA Efforts in the Region</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Federal Panel Regional Panel <p>COMBINED INTO ONE PANEL</p> <p>Output: Regional partners understand full scope of MPA efforts along West Coast for federal and regional programs.</p>	
12:00 to 1:00	Lunch	
1:00 to 2:30	<p>Tour de West Coast: Existing and Planned MPA Efforts in the Region (cont.)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tribal Panel State Panel <p>Output: Regional partners understand full scope of MPA efforts along West Coast for tribes and states.</p>	
2:30 to 3:00	<p>West Coast Pilot Overview</p> <p>Output: Regional partners understand WCP goals and components.</p>	Fischer/Wahle
3:00 to 3:15	Break	
3:15 to 4:30	<p>Visioning Session: Moving Forward as a Region (<i>Large group</i>)</p> <p>Output: Vision statement(s) crafted by</p>	Fischer Large Group

	regional partners.	
4:30 to 5:00	What's the Plan for Tomorrow?	Large group
5:00	Adjourn	
5:30 to 7:00	Reception hosted by National Marine Sanctuaries West Coast Region	

Day 2: Wednesday, June 21, 2006

Time	Action	Process/Materials
8:30 to 9:00	Continental Breakfast	
9:00 to 9:15	Welcome, Day 1 Recap, and Day 2 Overview	Uravitch
9:15 to 10:15	<p>Strategy Session Part 1: Ideas</p> <p>Tracks:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improved Coordination • Enhanced Stewardship • Future Priority Conservation Areas <p>Output: Regional partners identify strategies for helping region achieve the vision(s) for three tracks.</p>	Small Groups
10:15 to 10:30	Break	
10:30 to 11:30	<p>Strategy Session Part 2: Details</p> <p>Tracks:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improved Coordination • Enhanced Stewardship • Future Priority Conservation Areas <p>Output: Regional partners develop strategies for helping region achieve the vision(s) for three tracks.</p>	Small Groups
11:30 to 12:00	Report out	Large group
12:00 to 1:00	Lunch	
1:00 to 2:00	Summary	Which ideas are feasible?
2:00 to 2:30	Next Steps	Towards an action plan
2:30	Adjourn	

Appendix 3. Raw Notes from Strategy Session Flip Charts

Regional Messages

Facilitator: Matt Brookhart

- Keep messages as non- politicized as possible
- Information should come from a variety of sources with emphasis on accessing sources from local communities
- Get political leaders out on the water
- Local vital signs, regional vital signs
- Use info from managers
- Collaborate on common myths
- Coordinate multi-agency messages
- Using technologies such as ROV surveys where possible
- **Activities:**
 - Establish common monitoring efforts to track consistent indicators of ecosystem health
 - Develop common communication tools with varying scales of complexity
 - Use examples (ind. Species, groups of species, dynamic systems, human element)
 - Non MPA examples (e.g. El niño events)
 - Communicating ocean/MPA messages from the ground up
 - Using the “right” spokespersons (volunteers, councils, fishermen)
 - Getting “on the ground” data, i.e., from local communities
 - MPAs are areas where the pulse of the marine environment can be taken and communicated back to the public
 - Regional message → communicating “meaning” of MPA
 - “zoning” as collective term - too “politicized”
 - Develop a common language that is useful to the public
 - Overarching ocean message - “ocean literacy”- place matters in the ocean; ocean is not homogenous
 - Make comparison to land?

Characterizations

Facilitator: Brian Jordan

- Network of Ref. sites
- Information for adaptive management - regional standardized west coast monitoring program for variety purposes
 - Baseline data
 - Monitoring - indicators, protocols
- *Regional standardized benthic habitat map
- Regionally based MPA threat assessment
 - Standardized process to ID and mitigate threats
- *Regional Standardized West Coast Monitoring Program*
 - Activity
 - Define objectives, goals, questions
 - Metrics, indicators

- Methods
 - Scales (nested)
 - Standardized protocols, baseline → track over time
- Products
 - Score card system indicators
 - Understand variability
 - Regional synthesis of data
 - Evaluation of mgmt. efforts
 - Status and trends
- Who involved?
 - BIG LIST - everyone
- Challenges
 - Parochial nature of data collection
 - Coordination
 - Defining questions and application
 - \$ a consistent need
- Opportunities
 - Broad applicability of data
 - Communicating data
 - Build on existing programs, QA/QC, protocols and dissemination
 - Regional bodies of coordination exist
- *Benthic Habitat Map*
 - Topography
 - substrate type
 - Hard vs. soft
 - 1 m resolution
 - ROV - ground truthing
 - NOAA ship time
 - Prioritization of mapping
 - Products
 - Map product
 - Habitat class
 - Bathymetry
 - Raw data
 - Who involved - \$ and collaboration
 - Corps of Eng.
 - NOAA
 - Military - navy
 - USGS
 - Private sector
 - State agencies
 - Universities
 - TNC
 - Office of Ocean Exploration
 - Ongoing efforts
 - CA Ocean Protection Council
 - CA GIS habitat mapping - potential CA \$
 - NERR GIS group - benthic maps
 - UCSB → DFG - mapping server

- TNC
- SMECS
- Ecowatch → NCDDC.noaa.gov
- CSUMB
- NOAA Coast Survey
- Olympic Coast - Sanctuary Program in general
- WA Ocean Policy WG
- Related Efforts
 - CRANE- PISCO, DFG, NPS, Univ.
 - SIMON
 - NERRS
 - NMFS - fish, marine mammals, birds
 - State kelp surveys
 - Fish barrier database
 - NFWS
 - MARINE
 - EPA
 - DOS
 - SCCRP
 - USGS
 - ORHAB
 - Puget Sound Ambient MP
 - Smithsonian invasive spp.
 - SERC
 - PRBOCS - CA Current
- Challenges
 - Coordination
 - Money - distribution and prioritization
 - Data distribution and clearinghouse
 - Keep ONGOING/ maintenance funding
- Opportunities
 - Bootstrap individual efforts to leverage money and expertise
 - Time is right
 - Taglines - PR
 - West coast coalition (challenge and opportunity)

Coordinated Management

Facilitator: Kate Smukler

- Effective government to government communication
- Clear understanding of management roles
 - Appropriate POCs
- Clearly defined communication and decision making (and consultation) process
- Alignment of existing authorities toward common outcome
- Develop advisory body for west coast pilot w/ representatives
 - Sub-regional level too
- ID issues by scale → large to small
- Share successful management stories
 - Lessons learned
 - Facilitate adaptive management

- Tribal treaty rights should be advocated
- Cannot accomplish everything through west coast pilot
 - Scalable issues
- Geographic scale vs. issue based
- Benefits of interagency coordination
 - Local
 - Regional → migration
- Choose a couple of issues and focus on regionally → spp. Life history?
- All have collective interest
- Haven't been connected otherwise
 - Streamline
 - Manage better together
 - Facilitate discussion towards common goal
 - ID existing authorities
 - Align
 - Maximize action
 - ID tangible issues
 - *Vision:*
 - Communication
 - Coordination
 - Common tangible issues
 - Toward more effective management of resources
 - Gov-to-gov consultation
 - *Activities:*
 - Issue ID by scale
 - Develop advisory body
 - ID authorities
 - Communication process
 - Issue ID by scale
 - Managers, stakeholders, users - all interested and affected parties
 - Tiered
 - Utilizing variety of techniques - not just meetings
 - Advisory body
 - Data gaps = challenge
 - Integration of different scales = challenge
 - Resources = challenge
 - ID new common issues = opportunity
 - Establishing collaboration = opportunity
 - Engage public = opportunity
 - Communication at larger geographic scale = challenge
 - FWS CCP planning
 - Governor's Ocean Policy WGs
 - Site management plans - state, tribal, fed levels
 - TNC efforts and other NGOs
 - Co-mgmt process
 - treaty tribes - state
 - existing MOU → all levels
 - Ongoing research
 - Local government planning

- Develop Advisory Body
 - Mgmt reps → who responsible for management of resources
 - State
 - Tribal
 - Feds
 - Local
 - Function
 - Facilitate coordination between managers
 - Subgroups to focus on issues